

REMARKS

Claims 1, 16-19 have been amended and claims 2, 3, 10-15 and 20 stand canceled. Claims 1, 4-9 and 16-19 remain pending in this application.

I. Rejection of Claims under Section 103

A. Claims 1, 4-7 and 9 (King 6461713, Matsumiya US 5204157, GB 1478963 and France 2524406A)

Claims 1, 4-7 and 9 stand rejected based on the citation of King '713, Matsumiya, GB '963 and France '406. The office action states that King discloses a carrier and Matsumiya teaches attaching carrier members to a serpentine member. GB '963 is cited for a serpentine carrier for a sealing strip and France '406 is cited for the teaching of a extruding a sealing element about an extruded material covered serpentine carrier.

However, this combination is devoid of a teaching of a method of forming a sealing strip that has a wire of a circular cross-section that is asymmetrical about the longitudinally running center line with masking layers thereon with a cover layer disposed about the clips, the carrier member, the masking layers and the filter material.

Applicant has amended claim 1 as suggested by the Examiner on page 11 of the office action to define over the cited prior art. Therefore, it is submitted that claim 1 is now allowable over the cited prior art. Since claims 4-7 and 9 depend from now allowable claim 1, these dependent claims are now also submitted as being allowable over the cited prior art.

B. Claims 1, 4-7 and 9 (Matsumiya US 5204157, GB 1478963, Bright US 4699837 and France 2524406A)

Claims 1, 4-7 and 9 stand rejected based on the citation of Matsumiya, GB '963, Bright 4699837 and France '406. The office action states that Matsumiya teaches a attaching carrier members to a serpentine member. GB '963 is cited for a serpentine carrier for a sealing strip and France '406 is cited for the teaching of a extruding a

sealing element about an extruded material covered serpentine carrier. Bright '837 is also cited for the teaching of a serpentine carrier for a sealing strip.

However, this combination is devoid of a teaching of a method of forming a sealing strip that has a wire of a circular cross-section that is asymmetrical about the longitudinally running center line with masking layers thereon with a cover layer disposed about the clips, the carrier member, the masking layers and the filter material.

Applicant has amended claim 1 as suggested by the Examiner on page 11 of the office action to define over the cited prior art. Therefore, it is submitted that claim 1 is now allowable over the cited prior art. Since claims 4-7 and 9 depend from now allowable claim 1, these dependent claims are now also submitted as being allowable over the cited prior art.

C. Claims 1 and 15-17 (References cited above and further in view of Key US 5204157)

Key '157 is further cited and combined for the teaching of use of filler material to prevent the hungry horse problem. The office action states that it would be obvious to include such filler in the sealing strip of the prior art cited above.

However, this combination is devoid of a teaching of a method of forming a sealing strip that has a wire of a circular cross-section that is asymmetrical about the longitudinally running center line with masking layers thereon with a cover layer disposed about the clips, the carrier member, the masking layers and the filter material.

Applicant has amended claim 1 as suggested by the Examiner on page 11 of the office action to define over the cited prior art. Therefore, it is submitted that claim 1 is now allowable over the cited prior art. Since claims 15-17 depend from now allowable claim 1, these dependent claims are now also submitted as being allowable over the cited prior art. It should be noted that claim 15 has been canceled as the limitations therein have been incorporated into claim 1.

D. Claims 11-13 (References cited above and further in view of Cook US 5072567)

Cook '567 is further cited and combined for the teaching of use of wire having different cross-sectional shapes. The office action states that it would be obvious to modify the wire of the prior art cited above to include such different shapes.

However, this combination is devoid of a teaching of a method of forming a sealing strip that has a wire of a circular cross-section that is asymmetrical about the longitudinally running center line with masking layers thereon with a cover layer disposed about the clips, the carrier member, the masking layers and the filter material.

Applicant has amended claim 1 as suggested by the Examiner on page 11 of the office action to define over the cited prior art. Therefore, it is submitted that claim 1 is now allowable over the cited prior art. It should be noted that, as suggested by the examiner, claim 11 has been canceled and the limitations therein have been incorporated into claim 1. Accordingly, claims 12 and 13 have been canceled. In view of the cancellation of claims 11-13, this rejected is now moot.

E. Claims 8 and 15-19 (References cited above)

The office action states that, as to claim 8, the recited materials are known in the art. As to claims 15-19, the office action submits that Key's filler sheet meets the limitations of these claims. The office actions states that it would be obvious to combine Key's structure to meet the limitations of the claims.

However, this combination is devoid of a teaching of a method of forming a sealing strip that has a wire of a circular cross-section that is asymmetrical about the longitudinally running center line with masking layers thereon with a cover layer disposed about the clips, the carrier member, the masking layers and the filter material.

Applicant has amended claim 1 as suggested by the Examiner on page 11 of the office action to define over the cited prior art. Therefore, it is submitted that claim 1 is

now allowable over the cited prior art. It should be noted that, as per the Examiner's suggestion, the limitation of the spaced apart masking layers of claim 15 has been incorporated into claim 1. As a result, claims 16-19, which are now dependent on claim, are also allowable over the cited prior art.

F. Claim 20 (References cited above and Gibson US 4624093)

The office action states that, as to claim 20, a serpentine carrier which is asymmetrical about the longitudinally running centerline is shown. The office action states that it would be obvious to combine the teachings of Gibson with the other cited prior art references.

However, this combination is devoid of a teaching of a method of forming a sealing strip that has a wire of a circular cross-section that is asymmetrical about the longitudinally running center line with masking layers thereon with a cover layer disposed about the clips, the carrier member, the masking layers and the filter material.

Applicant has amended claim 1 as suggested by the Examiner on page 11 of the office action to define over the cited prior art. Therefore, it is submitted that claim 1 is now allowable over the cited prior art. It should be noted that, as per the Examiner's suggestion, the limitation of the asymmetrically configured wire about its longitudinally running center line of claim 20 has been incorporated into claim 1. Claim 20 has now been canceled rendering moot this rejection as to claim 20.

II. Suggestions from Examiner to Define over the Prior Art of Record

As stated above, the Examiner's has made a number of suggestions on how to define claim 1 over the cited prior art. Applicant has made all of the suggested changes to claim 1. Therefore, it is submitted that claim 1 is now allowable over the cited prior art. Also, claims 4-9 and 16-19 which depend either directly or indirectly from now allowable claim 1 are also submitted as being allowable.

III. Conclusion

Applicant submits that the claims, as amended, are allowable over the cited prior art. In view of the above, Applicants submit that pending Claims 1, 4-9 and 16-19 are now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the Rejections and Objections are requested. Allowance of Claims 1, 4-9 and 16-19 at an early date is solicited.

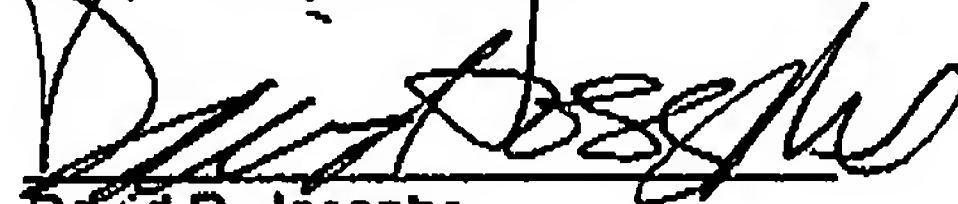
If an extension of time is required for timely submission of this response, Applicant hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time and the Office is authorized to charge Deposit Account 02-0900 for the appropriate additional fees in connection with the filing of this response.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned should any questions arise.

Dated:

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Respectfully submitted,



David R. Josephs
Registration No. 34,632
BARLOW, JOSEPHS & HOLMES, LTD.
101 Dyer Street, 5th Floor
Providence, RI 02903
Tel: 401-273-4446
Fax: 401-273-4447